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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 12, 2007

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LOCAL TAX PREPARER INDICTED FOR TAX EVASION

FRESNO- United States Attorney McGregor W. Scott announced today that a grand jury returned a two count indictment against local income tax preparer JANE MARY AVILA, 49, of Kerman, for tax evasion for the tax years 2000 and 2001.

The case was investigated by the Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigation Division, with the assistance from the California Employment Development Department and United States Department of Labor, Office of Inspector General.

According to Assistant U.S. Attorney Stanley A. Boone, who is prosecuting this case, AVILA cashed fraudulent unemployment insurance checks through her business, Juanita's Income Tax Service, located in San Joaquin, California. The defendant would cash these fraudulent unemployment checks for others who were defrauding the California Employment Development Department ("EDD") of unemployment insurance benefits. She would deposit these checks into her business's money order bank account from which she would issue money orders back to the perpetrators of the fraud. For her payment, the defendant issued money orders to herself which she then used for her personal use, including the purchase of real property. In the tax years 2000 and 2001, the defendant issued money orders to herself in the amount of \$113,733.72 and \$115,843.46, respectively, based on the fraudulent EDD checks. The defendant also sold pieces of real property to the perpetrators of the fraud. Her evasion resulted in part from her failure to report the income she received from cashing these fraudulent unemployment insurance checks and from her sale of real property. During this time, the defendant was also employed by the EDD.

The charged count carries a maximum of 5 years in prison and/or a \$250,000 fine.

The charge is only an allegation, and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty beyond a reasonable doubt.

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